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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER OCI #1020/72
6 Dec. 1972

Yugoslav Party Conference

The long-delayed third party conference, which will deal with the problems and role of youth in Yugoslavia, opened today in Belgrade. The focal point of the two-day session will be the presentation and discussion of a document: "The Struggle of the League of Communists for the Socialist Orientation and Active Participation of the Younger Generation in the Development of the Self-Managing Socialist Society." The title has been changed from the version published in July. It then referred to "Tasks" instead of "Struggle" and did not mention "Socialist Orientation."

The choice of this title plus the prominent position occupied by tough, no-nonsense party functionaries on the podium does not bode well for the interests of the younger generation. We are waiting to see whether the report and the ensuing discussion take into consideration the problems bugging youth or merely contain standard party rhetoric about the need for active participation by youth without providing meaningful access to the important decision-making bodies.

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Bucharest: Non-Dialogue with the Man From Prague

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Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Chnoupek's five-day sojourn in Bucharest is off to a chilly start. Preliminary press coverage of Chnoupek's arrival on 4 December and toasts that evening at a dinner in his honor, show more areas of disagreement than harmony.

Romanian Foreign Minister Macovescu, in his toast to Chnoupek, preferred to demonstrate the differences between Prague and Bucharest by concentrating on CSCE and the right of all states to participate as equals, "regardless of their social system, size, potential or level of development, membership or non-membership in existing military alliances." In this same vein, he called on CSCE to produce a document that expressly provides for "all participating states not to resort, in any circumstance, under any form, notwithstanding any pretext, to the use of force or threat of force in their international relations." Macovescu skirted the parameters of a diplomatic insult by barely mentioning Czechoslovak-Romanian relations.

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For his part, Chnoupek spoke of the alliance between the two "peoples" (read as distinct from governments and leaderships), a formulation that Prague also uses to describe the cool state of its relations with Albania and Yugoslavia. Moreover, Chnoupek's call for "a policy of peaceful co-existence between states of different social orders" may be read as a defense of the legality of the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia and, by implication of the Brezhnev Doctrine, neither of which is welcome in Bucharest. 25X1
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Approved For Release 2006/03/16 : CIA-RDP79B00864A001200020014-2

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Approved For Release 2006/03/16 : CIA-RDP79B00864A001200020014-2